

I find the proposal to use the power distribution system as a vehicle to supply internet services quite disturbing.

I have been involved in Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) for over twenty years. Our purpose is to provide emergency communication in times of local or National emergency. In a few examples, we have been the only communication from the first few hours to the first few days. This support to our nation would be noticeably degraded if BPL were to be implemented.

Part 97 regulations call for us to run the minimum power necessary to maintain reliable communications. With BPL in place the amount of power we would need to run would be significantly increased. This could easily negate any assistance we could be during an emergency due to the additional power we would need to communicate.

Now that we have a significant increase in threats to our national security by terrorists, it becomes even more important to facilitate emergency communications in support of Homeland Security. Yet BPL would provide a blanket obstruction to long distance communication by Amateur Radio in support of Homeland Security.

I sincerely hope that the BPL proposal will be refused.